



JOE SANFELIPPO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0620
FAX: (608) 282-3615
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0015
Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2015

Contact: Adam Tobias
608-266-0260
Adam.Tobias@legis.wi.gov

Rep. Sanfelippo looking to expand reading program

MADISON, Wis. — State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin, is seeking to redirect state funding to aid a reading improvement program with the hope that two more years of success will lead to a statewide expansion in the next budget.

Sanfelippo has submitted a budget motion request that would provide the Milwaukee Summer Reading Project with \$375,000 the first year and \$750,000 the second, for a biennial total of \$1.125 million.

The reading program was established in 2010 by the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University and is administered by Dr. Howard Fuller, former superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools.

The state funding would come from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction grants for the national teacher certification and master educator licensure programs, which have unclear positive results. The cuts amount to a 19 percent reduction over the biennium.

The Milwaukee Summer Reading Project focuses on children in grades 1 through 3 who have tested below their respective grade in reading ability. Most of the students are one to three years behind in reading.

Despite the voluntary nature of the program and the pool of children from which participants are drawn, nearly 60 percent of students made more than six weeks progress in a six-week period. Almost 30 percent achieved progress of more than 18 weeks, the equivalent of one semester.

“Reading is the starting point for all other learning, yet only 36.6 percent of students across Wisconsin scored proficient or better in reading in 2013,” Sanfelippo said. “Intervening at an early age to improve reading scores will have a tremendous secondary impact on the educational opportunities of many of these young at-risk students.”

###